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## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): In a set of protective gear for a firefighter or for an emergency rescue worker, the set comprising a helmet, which is adapted to cover upper portions of the head of a wearer, a cover, which is adapted to cover the helmet, and a shroud, which is adapted to cover lower portions of the head, face, and neck of the wearer, an improvement wherein the cover is joined to the shroud along an uninterrupted juncture defined by a permanent seam extending around a posterior portion of the head of the wearer but not around an anterior portion of the head of the wearer, so as to eliminate any gap between the shroud and the cover, whether the cover is joined to the shroud.

Claims 2 through 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The improvement of claim <u>1</u> 7, wherein the seam is sewn.

Claim 9 (Original): The improvement of claim 8, wherein the seam is sealed so as to be fluid-impervious.

Claims 10, 11, and 12 (Cancelled).